09-04-1984-p.3

PROGRAM

Clinton Center Baptist Church
153rd Anniversary
August 26, 1984
1:30 P.M.

Master of Ceremonies..... Donald W. Powell

Historical Program Committee..... Alice Lund, Chairman; Donald W. Powell, S. Robert Powell, Mildred Anderson

I. Prelude..... Carol Harris

II. Opening Prayer..... Mildred Anderson

III. Hymn Sing..... Congregation, under the direction of Mildred Anderson

God Bless America
Canal Days-Ho (Words by Alice Lund, Music by Mildred Anderson)
This Land Is Your Land

IV. Welcoming Remarks..... Alice Lund

V. Free Will Offering..... Congregation

VI. Special Music..... Carrie, Tracy and David Morgenstern

VII. Jokes..... Alice Lund

VIII. The Delaware and Hudson Canal

Of the D. & H. Canal ..... Alice Lund
(written during the winter 1983-1984)

"The Canawler"--a 16 mm. color film about the Delaware and Hudson Canal; this professionally made film is owned by and is presented today courtesy of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum. Film introduced by S. Robert Powell.

IX. Benediction..... Rev. Dwight Anderson

X. Group Photograph of all persons attending the 153rd anniversary celebration today of the founding of the Clinton Center Baptist Church..... Donald W. Powell

09-04-1984-p.4

EPTEMBER 2, 1915.

CLINTONIANS MONUMENTED

Brief History of Early Settlers and Ministers

FINE NATIVE FLINT MEMORIAL

Erected With Befitting Ceremonies—E. M. Peck Chairman—Mrs. Laura Loomis Removes Veil—Names Inscribed — Mayor Wendell Offers Prayer—Fine Dinner—Nearly 400 Present

Nearly four hundred men, women and children attended the dedication exercises of the monument erected in honor of the early settlers of Clinton township and the founders and ministers of the Clinton Baptist church on Aug. 27, at the Clinton church.

A bountiful dinner was served by the ladies of the society at noon.

The monument is a natural flint conglomerate from the mountain west of the church, weighing about six tons, standing on a concrete foundation all costing nearly $150.

The following are the names inscribed on the bronze tablet: In memory of the early settlers of this township, and the founders and ministers of the Clinton Baptist Church.

Norton	Rev. Elijah Peck
Grennell	Rev. John Smitzer
North	Rev. Horace Jones
West	Rev. Charles H. Hubbard
Gaylord	Rev. Alexander Smith
Griswold	Rev. Charles A. Fox
Peck	Rev. Henry Curtis
McMullen	Rev. George V. Walling
Loomis	Rev. Joseph Curren
Ledyard	Rev. James Spencer
Bunting	Rev. D. P. Purdon
Saunders	Rev. B. B. Bunting
Davenport	Rev. J. R. Remsen
Arnold	Rev. James Rainey

The chairman of the monument committee, E. M. Peck, after speaking of the consummation of the plans for the memorial called on Mrs. Laura Loomis, a daughter of Francis Griswold, and the oldest living descendant present, (about eighty nine) to remove the flag of the United States with which the monument was veiled.

The prayer was offered by Rev. Geo. S. Wendell, pastor of the Baptist church of Honesdale, which was followed by an offering of laurel wreaths by young girls and boys, fourteen in number, representing the fifth and the sixth generations of the early families named on the tablet. Laurel well becomes a victor, and the early families were victorious in more senses than one, over the wilderness, their own lives and in the influence they exerted over the lives of the oncoming generations.

A brief history of the first settlers and the ministers was given by the chairman which follows:

"Coming together as we do in memory of the early settlers of our township, and the families and ministers of the Clinton Baptist church, causes us to try to recall the conditions of those days when this country was nearly a wilderness.

"We do well to honor their names by erecting this lasting and natural flint conglomorate monument which represents their rugged and stable characters.

"Wayne county, as also Pike, was originally included in Northampton, but was set off, March 21st, 1798. One thousand acres were donated by M. Drinker for a county seat which was located at Bethany, May 15th, 1800. In 1841 the county seat was moved to Honesdale and located on land donated by the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, and the Torrey estate.

"Wayne County is honored as the place in which the first locomotive in America was run, the Stourbridge Lion at Honesdale, on Aug. 8, 1829.

"Clinton township was founded in 1834 from parts of Canaan, Mount Pleasant and Dyberry, the name being suggested by Judge Scott.

"The early settlers, mostly came from Connecticut. Among the first were Rev. Samuel West in 1808 and Robert Ledyard in 1809. In 1810, Levi Norton, David Gaylord, Rufus Grennell and S. E. North, with several others came and decided to locate in this vicinity. Levi Norton purchased a number of tracts of land, and in the next four years, with his wife, Olive Wheeler (as per history of Wilcher [illegible]) gathered an unmix. Yankee settlement around them.

"A number of families came and began the task of clearing up farms and making homes near where we meet today. Levi Norton built a saw mill near where Anson Wheeler's blacksmith shop was located.

"The Belmont and Easton turnpike was completed in 1821. A mail route was established from Easton to Mount Pleasant and the Mount Republic post-office was opened in the home of Uncle Alva Norton, which served the purposes of the community till about 1852. Weekly papers were eagerly received, but not by rural free delivery, or automobile transportation, mostly by a man on horseback.

"Time will only permit to give the names of the families and children so far as has been possible to get them at this date.

"Levi Norton and wife, Olive Wheeler, were the first representatives of that name; his children were Warren W., Alva W., Sheldon, Clarrisa and Samuel.

Michael Grennell, his wife was Susanna Balcom, was a Revolutionary soldier, living to nearly one hundred and seven years and is buried in this cemetery. His children were Rufus, or Deacon as he was always called, Beulah, who married Horace Squires; Michael and Ovid.

"Sylvester E. North and his wife Amanda. No children; the first wife of Virgil Gaylord was their adopted daughter.

"David S. West came with his father, Rev. Samuel West, from New London, Connecticut, in 1808. He was married to Keziah Stanton in 1812. They built their first frame house in 1814 and in 1827 erected the house in which they spent their remaining days and which is yet standing on the West farm, now owned by the Kegler family. Their children were eight in number, two dying in infancy; George in young manhood; Nancy Eunice, not married; Eliza was married to Samuel Stone; Harriet to George W. Leonard, and Francis. George W. Stone, a grandson is a baptist preacher at Exeter, Neb. The Bennetts of Carbondale and Scranton are among the descendants.

"Amasa Gaylord had the following children: Myron, Amasa Jr., Giles, Carnis and Harriet, who married Judge Virgil Grennell. Many of the children and grandchildren are well known to us.

"John Griswold's children were Francis, Sumner, Orrin, Sedate and Horace. Mrs. Hiram Loomis is the only surviving grand child, but we have many of the descendants who are respected members of this community.

Rev. Elijah Peck, the pioneer Baptist preacher, was represented by three children whose homes were in Clinton: Reuben, Lewis and Joanna who was the wife of Giles Gaylord. E. M. Peck, son of Reuben and Mrs. Ella Curtis, Lewis Peck and W. A. Gaylord also Mrs. Charles Gaylord, who were children of Giles and Joanna Peck Gaylord are still living.

Daniel McMullen was in the Wyoming Valley during the trouble with the Indians, barely escaping their murderous attacks. His children were George and James; the former was a renowned hunter, and the latter was one of the strongest men in the town. Ensign, son of James, still lives, to represent the family as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren who are well known and honored citizens.

Reuben Loomis. His children were Erastus, Hiram and Lucretia, who married Renselear Stevenson.

"Robert Ledyard came from England during the time of the Revolutionary War serving as a soldier on the American side, enlisting in Connecticut. Being in Benedict Arnold's army he could never find words sufficient to express his contempt for the traitorous action of Arnold. A piece of silver money, part of a payment of pension, is still in the possession of the family. The children whose homes were here were Luther, Hiram and Polly, wife of Peter Rider. The other children settled in the west. Many of the descendants are in the vicinity and well known.

"John Bunting's children were Daniel, John, Eunice, wife of Mr. June; Patience, wife of David Saunders; Abijah and Baruch B., who was the honored pastor of the Clinton Baptist church.

"Saundrs—Shepherd, David and Jonathan were among the early settlers and many of their descendants are about here and in nearby towns.

"Austin Davenport was a well known resident. A grandson, Austin, son of Chauncey, is living in Duluth, Minn.

"Daniel Arnold came about 1820. His children were Charles, Elizabeth, wife of Milo Gaylord, and Henry now living near here.

"There were a few others whose names are not on the tablet who were active [illegible] Stanton, Asa Welch, John R. Davidson, Nathan Wilbur, Phiney Muzzy, Fisher Case, Deacon Bailey, and Samuel Lee who were of sterling worth to the community.

"As to the ministers whose names adorn the tablet, Rev. Elijah Peck was not a pastor, but among his various pioneer labors, held meetings in the vicinity of this church for several years, and was instrumental in its formation, which occurred November 10, 1834. Reverends Smitzer, Jones, Hubbard, Smith, Fox and Walling were pastors in the early years, before my recollections, yet in later years, I was acquainted with Revs. Smith and Fox; so I personally knew all but five of those who have been in charge of this church.

Rev. Henry Curtis was born in England, Oct. 11, 1800. He came to America in 1812 and settled in Gilbertsville, N. Y. He was converted in New York city at the age of sixteen years, baptized by Rev. John Williams, of the Oliver street Baptist church, licensed March 10, 1824. March 12 he was married to Miss Eliza Banning. His first pastorate was with the Windsor and Harpersville churches, N. Y. He came to Bethany as pastor in 1832 and soon was actively engaged as supply for the nearby churches. He was pastor at Carbondale for about two years and of the Clinton church about twelve years. Time fails to go into details of his long and faithful labors as an efficient servant of his Saviour Jesus Christ. His is an honored name, worthy of being held in sweet remembrance by his descendants many of whom are esteemed neighbors in this community, and also by the many who had the privilege of being under his ministry.

"Clinton church has been especially blessed with pastors, as many know. Revs. Bunting, Remsen and Rainey, who with the other under shepherds, have been godly men who exemplified the Christianity they proclaimed by a consistent life. They will deserve to be honored by a lasting monument to remind the coming generations of those who laid the foundations of Clinton Baptist church. May their memories be cherished, and lives so lived that no stain shall blot the fair name of this church and community."

After repairing to the church, the choir sang, "The little brown church in the wildwood" and the address of welcome was given by Pastor Winters.

Mr. Sheldon Norton of Carbondale, whose father Deacon E. K. Norton was an honored member of Clinton church, gave not only an interesting but instructive address to which the large audience listened with rapt attention. He spoke of the qualifications necessary to perpetuate the church and our country as based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, citing the destruction of the old nations as they failed to do righteously, closing with boyhood recollections.

(To be continued.)

Laura Griswold Loomis
(1826-1924)

or Russell's paternal grandmother.

Laura Griswold Loomis, aged 89 years

(1788-1857)
Horace Squire
Mary Emma Squire's paternal grandfather

[Sheldon Norton's "boyhood recollections" were given on 8/27/1915]

Mrs. Hiram Loomis is Laura Griswold Loomis

(10-09-1785--11-10-1849)

Reuben Loomis → he was Theron Loomis' paternal grandfather.

Phinney Muzzey was Erastus Loomis' wife's father. Erastus Loomis (1810-1893) was Hiram Loomis' brother.